CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for producing a software distribution kit (SDK) volume, the SDK volume being a computer-readable volume storing a plurality of SDK component files, comprising:

at least one normalized file storage server configured to store SDK component files of a plurality of SDK volumes; and

a database configured to identify the SDK component files of each SDK volume.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one normalized file storage server is configured to store header information for ones of the plurality of SDK volumes; and

the database is configured to identify header information for each SDK volume.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein:

the header information includes a root directory for a corresponding one of the plurality of SDK volumes.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the database is configured to catalog the plurality of SDK volumes.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein:

the database configured to catalog the plurality of SDK volumes is stored on a different computer than the database configured to identify the SDK component files of each SDK volume.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a file extractor configured to copy SDK component files from a master SDK volume to at least one of the at least one normalized file storage server and add information identifying the copied SDK component files to the database.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein:

the file extractor is configured to copy header information from the master SDK volume to at least one of the at least one normalized file storage server and add information identifying the copied header information to the database.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein:
the master SDK volume is a compact disc (CD).

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the normalized file storage server is a replicating normalized file storage server.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a file extractor configured to copy SDK component files from an image of a master SDK volume to at least one of the at least one normalized file storage server and add information identifying the copied SDK component files to the database.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein:
the file extractor is configured to copy header information from the image of the master SDK volume to at least one of the at least one normalized file storage server and add information identifying the copied header information to the database.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein:
the master SDK volume is a compact disc (CD).

13. The system of claim 10, wherein:
the master SDK volume is a digital versatile disc (DVD).

14. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
an SDK builder executed by a computer other than the at least one normalized file storage server and configured to copy SDK component files of a selected one of the SDK volumes from one of the at least one normalized file storage server to a writeable computer-readable volume.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein:
the SDK builder is configured to copy header information of the selected one of the SDK volumes from one of the at least one normalized file storage server to the writeable computer-readable volume.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein:
the writeable computer-readable volume is a compact disc (CD).

17. The system of claim 14, wherein:

the writeable computer-readable volume is removable.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein:

the SDK builder is downloadable to the computer and configured to extend capabilities of a browser.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein:

the SDK builder is an ActiveX component.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the SDK volume is one of a plurality of SDK volumes in an SDK volume set;

the at least one normalized file storage server is configured to store SDK component files for each SDK volume of the SDK volume set; and

the database is configured to identify each SDK volume of the SDK volume set.

21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a file extractor configured to, for each SDK volume of an SDK volume set, copy SDK component files from a master SDK volume to at least one of the at least one normalized file storage server and add information identifying the copied SDK component files to the database.

22. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

an SDK builder executed by a computer other than the at least one normalized file storage server and configured to, for each SDK volume of a selected SDK volume set, copy SDK component files of the SDK volume from one of the at least one normalized file storage server to a writeable computer-readable volume.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein:

the SDK builder is configured to, for each SDK volume of the selected SDK volume set, copy header information of the selected one of the SDK volumes from one of the at least one normalized file storage server to the writeable computer-readable volume.

24. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one normalized file storage server is configured to store header information for the plurality of SDK volumes;

the header information includes a root directory for a corresponding one of the plurality of SDK volumes;

the database is configured to identify the header information for each SDK volume;

the database is configured to catalog the plurality of SDK volumes; and

the database configured to catalog the plurality of SDK volumes is stored on a different computer than the database configured to identify the SDK component files of each SDK volume.

25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a file extractor configured to copy header information and SDK component files from one of a master SDK volume and an image of a master SDK volume to at least one of the at least one normalized file storage server and add information identifying the copied SDK component files to the database.

26. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

an SDK builder executed by a computer other than the at least one normalized file storage server and configured to copy header information and SDK component files of a selected one of the SDK volumes from one of the at least one normalized file storage server to a writeable computer-readable volume.

27. A system for producing a software distribution kit (SDK) volume, the SDK volume being a computer-readable volume storing a plurality of SDK component files, comprising:

means for storing SDK component files of a plurality of SDK volumes; and

means for identifying the SDK component files of each SDK volume.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising:

means for storing header information for ones of the plurality of SDK volumes, wherein the header information includes a root directory for a corresponding one of the plurality of SDK volumes.

29. The system of claim 28, further comprising:

means for copying header information and SDK component files from a master SDK volume to the means for storing header information and the means for storing SDK component files;

means for adding information identifying the copied SDK component files to the means for identifying the SDK component files.

30. The system of claim 29, further comprising:

means for writing header information and SDK component files of a selected one of the SDK volumes from the means for storing header information and the means for storing SDK component files to a writeable computer-readable volume.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein:

the means for writing is an ActiveX component.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein:

the writeable removable computer-readable volume is a compact disc (CD).

33. The system of claim 31, wherein:

the writeable removable computer-readable volume is removable.

34. A method for producing a software distribution kit (SDK) volume, the SDK volume being a computer-readable volume storing a plurality of SDK component files, comprising:

for each of the plurality of SDK component files, if the SDK component file has not already been stored on a file storage server, storing the SDK component file on the file storage server; and

storing in a database information correlating the stored SDK component files with the SDK volume.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising:

if header information about the SDK volume has not already been stored on the file storage server, storing the header information on the file storage server, wherein the header information includes a root directory for the SDK volume; and

storing in the database information correlating the stored header information with the SDK volume.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein:
the SDK volume is one of a plurality of SDK volumes in an SDK volume set;
and further comprising:
storing in the database information about each SDK volume of the SDK volume set.

37. The method of claim 34, further comprising:
the stored SDK component files and the information correlating the stored SDK component files with the SDK volume header information on a second file storage server.

38. A method for producing a software distribution kit (SDK) volume, the SDK volume being a computer-readable volume storing a plurality of SDK component files, comprising:
copying the plurality of SDK component files from a file storage server;
creating an image of the SDK volume from the copied SDK component files; and
writing the image to a writeable computer-readable volume.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
copying header information for the SDK volume from the file storage server, wherein the header information includes a root directory for the SDK volume;
and wherein the creating an image comprises:
creating an image of the SDK volume from the copied header information and the copied SDK component files.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein:
the writeable computer-readable volume is a compact disc (CD).

41. The method of claim 39, wherein:
the writeable computer-readable volume is removable.

42. The method of claim 39, further comprising:
selecting the file storage server based on a location of the file storage server.

43. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
downloading an SDK builder that performs the copying and creating.

44. The method of claim 38, wherein:

the SDK volume is one of a plurality of SDK volumes in an SDK volume set;

and further comprising:

performing the copying, creating and writing for each SDK volume of the SDK volume set.

45. The method of claim 38, further comprising:

sending information about the SDK volume to an SDK production server;

and wherein:

the copying, creating and writing are performed by the SDK production server.

46. The method of claim 38, wherein:

the SDK volume is one of a plurality of SDK volumes in an SDK volume set;

and further comprising:

sending information about the SDK volume set to an SDK production server;

and wherein:

the copying, creating and writing are performed by the SDK production server for each SDK volume of the SDK volume set.

47. The method of claim 38, further comprising:

sending the image of the SDK volume to an SDK production server;

and wherein:

the writing is performed by the SDK production server.